SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by ..... [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT ON 16$^{th}$ SEPTEMBER

YOTA ONLINE ON 24$^{th}$ SEPTEMBER

and

THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL HF CW CONTEST

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

THE WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT ON 16$^{th}$ SEPTEMBER

The fifth leg of the Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint is on the air from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on 16$^{th}$ September with CW and phone activity and trying to work as many grid squares as possible. The exchange is a RS or RST report and your 4-character grid square. You earn 2 points per QSO and 2 points for each new grid square worked. Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 20$^{th}$ September by e-mail to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za and make sure your call sign is in the log file name.

PREPARATIONS CONTINUE FOR WORLD RADIOCOMMUNICATION CONFERENCE 2023

As preparations for World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23) go forward, the International Amateur Radio Union continues its efforts to protect amateur and amateur-satellite allocations. The international conferences, sponsored by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), typically take place every 4 years. The IARU participated in the first online meeting of Project Team A (PTA) of the WRC-23 CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG), reporting this week that "a good start was made on items of interest to the amateur and amateur-satellite services."

Agenda Item 1.12 addresses studies stemming from WRC-19 that are now under way to consider a new secondary allocation to the Earth Exploration-Satellite (active) Service (EESS active) for spaceborne radar sensors in the 40 - 50 MHz range, taking into account the protection of incumbent services (including in adjacent bands), which would include 6 metres. A handful of countries have

also allocated secondary amateur bands in the vicinity of 40 MHz. The WRC-19 Resolution (Res. 656), which ordered the studies, noted that spaceborne-active RF sensors can provide unique information on physical properties of the Earth and that spaceborne-active remote sensing requires specific frequency ranges depending on the physical phenomena to be observed. Spaceborne radars are intended to operate only in uninhabited or sparsely populated areas with particular focus on deserts and polar ice fields, between the hours of 03:00 and 06:00 local time.

Agenda Item 1.14 addresses the Earth Exploration-Satellite (passive) Service (EESS passive) in the range 231.5 − 250 GHz. The amateur and amateur-satellite services have a primary allocation at 248 - 250 GHz and a secondary allocation at 241 - 248 GHz.

Agenda Item 9.1 will consider and approve the *Report of the Director* of the ITU Radiocommunication Bureau on its activities since WRC-19. This includes a review of the Amateur Service and the Amateur Satellite Service allocations in the frequency band 1,240 – 1,300 MHz to determine if additional measures are required to ensure protection of the radio navigation-satellite (space-to-Earth) service (RNSS) operating in the same band. The 1,240 – 1,300 MHz band is allocated worldwide to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis and the Amateur Satellite Service (Earth-to-space) may operate in the band 1,260 – 1,270 MHz. The primary concern is the potential for interference to the Galileo Global Navigation Satellite System (GPS) in ITU Region 1 (Europe, the Middle East and Africa).

TWO CONTESTS ON 19$^{th}$ AND 20$^{th}$ SEPTEMBER

Over the weekend of 19$^{th}$ and 20$^{th}$ September, you have the choice of two contests. The Africa All Mode International DX Contest as well as the second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest will be on the air. Turn to page 16 and 50 in the 2020 Blue Book for all the information.

The Africa All Mode International DX Contest is Africa working the world, and runs from 12:00 UTC on Saturday 19$^{th}$ September with CW, Phone and RTTY activity on 80 to 10 metres until 12:00 UTC on Sunday 20$^{th}$ September. The exchange is a RS or RST report and a serial number starting at 001. There are 18 classes of participation to choose from. Your Cabrillo log must be submitted by Monday 5 October to contest@sarl.org.za.

The second leg of the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest runs from 10:00 UTC on Saturday 19$^{th}$ September to 10:00 UTC on Sunday 20$^{th}$ September with digital activity on 6, 4 and 2 metres, 70 and 23 centimetres and higher. The exchange is an RSQ report and a six character grid reference. Submit your log by Monday 12$^{th}$ October by e-mail to contest@sarl.org.za.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

YOTA ONLINE SESSION 5 ”DECEMBER YOTA MONTH”

Are you ready for our upcoming YOTA online session? Set a reminder for 18:00 UTC (20:00 CAT) on Thursday 24th September 2020 - Heritage Day. In this newest episode the team will present the main topic "December YOTA Month" in preparation to the upcoming event to be held in less than three months. We will also have a prize draw after you solved our new riddle live on the show. Visit the SARL Youth Facebook page for all the information on Session 5.

SOTA ACTIVITY DAYS

On Saturday 19th September, various European SOTA groups will be on the air for the European SOTA Day with phone, CW and digital activity on various bands.

The Spring ZS SOTA Activity Day takes place from 00:00 to 23:59 UTC on Thursday 24th September - Heritage Day with activity on all bands and modes. The exchange is a RS, RST or RSQ report and the SOTA reference. Get all the information on page 67 of the 2020 Blue Book.

THE PROVISIONAL RESULTS OF THE SARL HF CW CONTEST

The Contest Committee received 13 logs for the HF CW Contest held on 30th August.

1st Ulrich Ann, ZR2A - 69 points

2nd Donovan van Loggerenberg, ZS2DL - 67 points

3rd Barry Nugent, ZS2NF - 63 points

The highest score on a single band – Ulrich Ann, ZR2A - 39 points on 40 metres

The Club Contest

1st PEARS - 276 points

2nd Pretoria ARC - 57 points

3rd Bloemfontein ARC - 53 points

The Combined Results of the SARL HF Contests

1st Jan Botha, ZS4JAN - 399 points

2nd Barry Nugent, ZS2NF - 164 points

3rd Hans Kappetijn, ZS6KR - 138 points

4th Theunis Potgieter, ZS2EC - 108 points

The Club Competition

1st the Port Elizabeth ARS - 725 points

2nd the Bloemfontein ARC - 399 points

3rd the West Rand ARC - 380 points

All the results were published in HF Happenings 916

ZULULAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AGM

At the Virtual AGM of the Zululand Amateur Radio Club held on Sunday 6th September 2020, the following members were elected to serve on the Committee for the forthcoming year:

Chairman: Jan Erasmus, ZS5G

Vice Chairman: Andre Rheder, ZS5AW

Treasurer: Willie Axford, ZS5WI

Secretary: Derick Moor, ZS5FH

Newsletter Editor, Jo Snyders, ZS5PO

We wish them well during their term of office and thank the outgoing members for their hard work during their term of office.

THE PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are currently no sunspot regions visible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 15 to 40 m bands may, especially around sunrise and sunset, provide some good DX fun. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

15th September – the Highway ARC meeting

16th September – the SARL 80 m Wednesday Club Sprint

19th September– the European SOTA Day

19th and 20th September – the SARL VHF/UHF Digital Contest and the All Africa DX Contest

22nd September - Spring Equinox (15:31 CAT)

24th September – YOTA Online and the ZS SOTA Day on Heritage Day

26th and 27th September – the CQ WW RTTY Contest

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our main news story:

The fifth leg of the Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint is on the air from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on 16th September with CW and phone activity and trying to work as many grid squares as possible.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by

following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower sideband by Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by .....

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.